

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING
LOREN NAGY, CHAIRMAN
APRIL 11, 2024**

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was convened by Chair. Nagy at 7:01 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Angela Churchill, Tom Galante, Heather Goudreau, Jeff Mengler, Suzi Myers, Loren Nagy, Pam Otto.

Absent: Commissioners: Joey Cannizzaro, Lee Haggas, Laura Miller Hill, Meagan Provencher; Student Member, Deetya Solanki.

City Staff Present: Marcelline D'Argento, AJ Reineking.

3. Minutes Review and Approval.

Motion to approve and place into the public record the minutes of the March 14, 2024 Natural Resources Commission [NRC] meeting. Motion by Comm. Churchill, second by Comm. Otto to approve the minutes. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:02 p.m.

4. New Business.

A. Tree City USA

The City of St. Charles [City] was approved by the Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City USA for the 26th year. Additionally, the City earned the Growth Award from the Arbor Day Foundation for going above and beyond the four standards of Tree City USA. Criteria for the Growth Award included the City's participation in continuing education for its certified arborists and forestry crew, tree inventory and plantings to removals ratio. Less than 15% of all Tree Cities earn the Growth Award.

5. Old Business.

A. Arbor Day.

Planning continued for the Arbor Day tree planting on Friday, April 26th at Davis Primary School at 1:30 pm. The specific site on school grounds for the location of the tree will be determined with School District 303 facilities and city staff members.

B. Bird City.

Comm. Myers reported City Council passed a Resolution for the City to become a Bird City. St. Charles will be recognized by Bird City Illinois during the May 8th meeting of the Kane County Audubon Society at 7:00 pm at Baker Community Center. Comm. Myers will invite Mayor Vitek to the meeting and encouraged all members of the NRC to attend.

6. Committee Reports.

A. Education and Outreach.

Comm. Otto reported approximately 60 people attended the bird walk hosted by the NRC on April 6th at Norris Woods Park. Additional bird walks are scheduled in April and May.

B. Engagement.

Comm. Goudreau gave an update on the rain barrel sale.

C. Advisory.

Comm. Mengler reported he and Comm. Haggas attended the March 28th meeting of the Fox River Dam Joint Task Force [“Task Force”]. The NRC’s recommendations to the Task Force will be conveyed in writing to the City Administrator’s Office via email. The next Task Force meeting is scheduled for May 2, 2024.

7. Communications – Public Services Division Tree Activity Reports

Motion to approve and place on file the Public Services Division tree activity reports for March 2024. Motion by Comm. Galante, second by Comm. Churchill to approve the reports. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:59 p.m.

8. Public Comment.

None.

9. Additional Items

A. Commissioners

Comm. Otto thanked the City’s Public Works staff for the clean-up work in Langum Woods. Mr. Reineking stated the removal of invasive species from Langum Woods will be a three-year project.

Comm. Mengler, reported on the new Fabulous Fox Water Trail which is part of the National Trails System, and will include access points for recreation along the Fox River in St. Charles.

B. City Staff

None.

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion by Comm. Myers, second by Comm. Otto to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 8:06 p.m.